

Dear Mr. Goodin:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Caruthersville, Missouri, on April 2, 2001. In your statement you discussed the Commerce to Birds Point Levee and the Thompson Bend/Dry Bayou Bendway Cutoff.

The Commerce to Birds Point Levee is a critical part of the Mississippi River Mainline Levee System. Overtopping and/or failure of that levee could be catastrophic to numerous cities and towns and thousands of acres of farmland between the west bank of the Mississippi River and Crowley's Ridge, all the way down to Marianna, Arkansas. The recently completed Commerce to Birds Point Levee raise/restoration work should restore the integrity of the levee system and substantially reduce the probability of any type of levee failure in this area in the future. We commend your efforts and those of your association, plus Levee District No. 2 of Scott County and Levee District No. 3 of Mississippi County, in working with the Corps on these levee improvements.

The Thompson Bend Riparian project has been successful mainly because of the strong support shown by you and others in your area. We appreciate your taking the time on Sunday afternoon, April 1, 2001, to show and brief the Commission members and staff firsthand on the work you are doing in conjunction with the St. Louis District. I plan to explore

the viability of what you are doing at Thompson Bend for other areas in the Mississippi Valley Division. Again, we applaud your efforts in this area. This work will certainly be used as an example for other repairs for similar problems in the future.

Thank you again for your presentation. The Commission appreciates receiving your views and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi
River Commission